

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, November 21, 2003

MAX SALAZAR OF 5D HONORED AS OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Earlier this year, a woman was taken by force from a street in Northeast DC to the rear of a local elementary school, where she was sexually assaulted by a group of men. Shortly after, Fifth District Officer Max Salazar received an assignment of a second sighting of one of the subjects involved in this violent attack. Knowledgeable of the area, Officer Salazar conducted a thorough canvas and soon located a subject who fit the lookout description in the 100 block of 15th Street, NE. Officer Salazar detained the subject until the complainant arrived and was able to positively identify him as one of the men who had sexually assaulted her. A computer check revealed the suspect also was wanted on an outstanding Traffic Bench Warrant. Officer Salazar placed the suspect under arrest and contacted a detective from the Sexual Assault Unit to assist with the interrogation and processing of the suspect. As a result of the interrogation, a second suspect was apprehended, and both were charged with First Degree Sexual Assault, Kidnapping, and Crime of Violence While Armed. For his outstanding police work, Officer Salazar was named the Department-wide Officer of the Month during this month's CHAMPS awards ceremony.

① Read more about the heroic actions of all 20 officers honored in November at:
<http://www.mpd.c.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2003/11.shtm>

① The MPDC wishes to thank the Helix Hotel for hosting this month's CHAMPS—Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service—luncheon.

TWO MPDC MEMBERS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS CAFRITZ AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE BY DC GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

As homicide units across the nation face new challenges in closing cases, Detective Mitch Credle of the MPDC's Violent Crimes Branch attained a personal closure rate of 80 percent. Part of Credle's success has been his close ties to the community, which he established in part through his involvement as a youth basketball coach. In 1996 Credle founded the Tom Jones Youth Summer Basketball Camp at the Metropolitan Police Boys & Girls Clubhouse #10. It serves 500 children every summer and provides area youth with constructive athletic and social activities. Another MPDC officer—Myra Wheeler Jordan—initiated the idea of setting up a special liaison unit to address cultural and communication barriers between DC's deaf and hard of hearing communities and the MPDC. Drawing on her own ties to the community, Officer Jordan established an internship program where students from Gallaudet University help to develop policy and training. Changes ushered in by Officer Jordan have brought the MPDC into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Both Detective Credle and Officer Jordan were among five recipients this past week of the prestigious 4th Annual Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Awards for Distinguished DC Government Employees

① Read the entire news release at:
<http://www.mpd.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2418>

① For more information about the Cafritz Awards, visit the DC Agenda website at:
<http://www.dcagenda.org/pages/award/award03.htm>

MPDC JOINS IN NATIONWIDE CRACKDOWN ON SEAT BELT VIOLATIONS

The MPDC is joining with more than 12,000 other law enforcement agencies in a nationwide crackdown to enforce seat belt and child passenger safety laws over the Thanksgiving holiday. This year's national Click It or Ticket Mobilization is placing specific emphasis on teens and young adults, who are least likely to buckle up and most likely to die in a traffic crash. During the Mobilization, the MPDC is conducting seat belt and child passenger safety seat checkpoints in all seven police districts. The checkpoints are generally located near DC high schools, in an attempt to boost seat belt usage among 16- to 24-year-old male drivers. In addition to issuing citations at the checkpoints, police officers and officials with the District Department of Transportation are checking child safety seats and providing replacements for families in need. DC and 20 states (including Maryland) have what are known as "primary" seat belt laws, which mean that police officers can stop and ticket motorists based solely on an observed seat belt violation. According to the National Safety Council, jurisdictions with primary laws have experienced, on average, a 15-percentage point increase in seat belt use. The District's seat belt usage rate is currently 85 percent, among the highest in the nation.

ALLEGED FENCING OPERATION RAIDED IN NORTHWEST

This past week, MPDC detectives, uniformed officers from the Third District and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents raided the B and K News Stand building, at 2414 18th Street, NW, as well as a home in Montgomery County, Maryland. The raids were the result of a six-month investigation by 3D detectives into alleged fencing of stolen and illegal items. A 41-year-old Gaithersburg, Maryland, man was arrested and charged with Conspiracy to Sell and Receive Interstate Stolen Property. Items seized included cash, drugs, counterfeit CDs, electronic equipment, and other illegal and suspected stolen items. These were the second series of raids conducted as part of an ongoing investigation. Earlier this month, raids were conducted at a residence in Montgomery County and the J and N Auto Service, 1731 Kalorama Road, NW. The investigation into the fencing operations is continuing, and additional arrests are expected.

NEWS & NOTES

Latino Community-Police Dialogue. To promote greater understanding and communication, the Council of Latino Agencies and the MPDC's Latino Advisory Council are co-sponsoring a "Dialogue and Recognition of Latino Parents, Youth and Police Officers" on Saturday, November 22, from 9:30 am to 3 pm, at the George Washington University Marvin Center, 800 21st Street, NW. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2432>.

Chatting with the Chief. Chief Ramsey takes phone calls on public safety issues during two radio programs this week: on Tuesday, November 25, from 6:40-7 pm, on WHUR 96.3-FM; and on Wednesday, November 26, from 5-6 pm, on WOL 1450-AM.

Citizen Summit III Follow-Up. A preliminary report on the recent Citizen Summit III—including a discussion of public safety issues—is now available at <http://www.citizensummit.dc.gov/main.shtm>

Drug Free Zone. A drug free zone is in effect this weekend in the First Police District, with additional zones planned for next week. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm>.

- ① Learn more about the Mobilization at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2428>
- ① DC has among the toughest seat belt and child safety seat laws in the nation. Details at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/clickit.shtm>
- ① For information about this year's national Mobilization, click on:
<http://www.nsc.org/airbag.htm>

- ① Read the full news release at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2427>
- ① Many of the items seized in these raids were believed taken in recent burglaries. For tips on reducing your chances of being burglarized, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/burglary.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 11/21/03)

- 2003: 216
- 2002: 235
- % Change: -8.1%

Adult Arrests (week end. 11/15/03)

- Total: 691
- Drugs: 114
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 19
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 56

Firearm Recoveries (as of 11/18/03)

- Total: 1,739
- November: 111

Traffic Fatalities (as of 11/21/03)

- 2003: 59
- 2002: 48
- % Change: +22.9%